



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,507	11/12/2001	Richard Sapienza	1028-001E	6134

7590

09/05/2002

Alan B. Clement
HEDMAN & COSTIGAN, P.C.
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

EXAMINER

GREEN, ANTHONY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1755

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-7

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,507

Applicant(s)

SAPIENZA, RICHARD

Examiner

Anthony J. Green

Art Unit

1755

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 35-59, 71-73 and 75-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 50-55, 59, 72, 73 and 75-80 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35-49, 56-58 and 71 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1755

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the amendment submitted on 02 JULY 2002 in which claims 1, 60-70 and 74 were canceled. Currently claims 35-59, 71-73 and 75-80 are pending. Based on the submission of proper terminal disclaimers the obviousness double patenting rejections have been overcome. Based on the cancellation of claims 60-70 the rejection of the claims over Back et al is considered moot. New rejections over some of the claims appear below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 35-49 and 56-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

It is not seen as to where, in the specification, the support lies for the use of sodium carbonate, bicarbonate and potassium carbonate and bicarbonate.

Art Unit: 1755

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 35-49, 56-58 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the claims it is confusing as to how an inorganic salt (i.e. sodium carbonate NaCO_3) can be included in a Markush group for a hydroxyformate salt (claim 35) or a carboxylic acid salt (claims 54-57). Note that claim 35 recites that the hydroxyformate salt is a carbonate or bicarbonate and that claims 54-57 recite that the hydroxycarboxylic acid salt is a hydroxyformate salt and that the hydroxyformate salt is a carbonate or bicarbonate which suggests that a carbonate or bicarbonate is an example of a hydroxycarboxylic acid which is clearly not correct. The examiner realizes that carbonic acid (i.e. hydroxyformate) is an old archaic term for carboxylic acid and that the salt of a carbonic acid would be a carbonate, however the use of sodium carbonate etc. as examples of hydroxyformates and hydroxycarboxylic acids is very confusing. See definition of carbonic acid from Grant & Hackh's Chemical Dictionary (copy supplied). The examiner suggests replacing the term "carbonate" or "bicarbonate" with hydroxyformate and dihydroxyformate to overcome this rejection.

In claim 58 the phrase "said organic salt" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claim 71 (renumbered) depends from a claim that has been canceled.

Art Unit: 1755

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 50-55, 59, 72-73, and 75-80 are allowed.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Green whose telephone number is (703) 308-3819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday and alternate Fridays from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Bell, can be reached on (703) 308-3823. The fax phone numbers for the Group are as follows:

- (i) (703) 872-9310 for any non-final amendment or communication, and
- (ii) (703) 872-9311 for any after-final amendment or communication.

It is suggested that the examiner be notified that a fax has been sent to ensure prompt handling of the amendment or communication.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


ANTHONY GREEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1755

ajg
September 3, 2002